

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CISL NATIONAL CONVENTION WRAP-UP

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1. SUMMARY. AT THE MIDWAY POINT BETWEEN THE CONCLUSION
OF ITS NATIONAL CONVENTION AND THE CONVOCATION (JULY 6)
OF THE NEWLY ELECTED GENERAL COUNCIL WHICH WILL ELECT
THE NEW LEADERSHIP, THE SITUATION IN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC-
ORIENTED LABOR CONFEDERATION CISL IS MORE TRANQUIL THAN
ONE MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED IT TO BE THE MODERATES (I.E.,
"THE MINORITY") FARED RATHER POORLY AT THE CON-
VENTION. STILL, THERE ARE FEW IF ANY WHO SEEM TO BE
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THINKING IN TERMS OF A SPLIT END SUMMARY.

2. PAOLO SARTORI, HEAD OF CISL'S MOST NUMEROUS UNION
(THE AGRICULTURAL WORKERS) AND MOST OUTSPOKEN ANTI-
COMMUNIST AMONG THE TOP CISL PERSONALITIES, HAS TWICE
COMMENTED PUBLICLY SINCE THE CONVENTION. ON NEITHER
OCCASION DID HE CONTEMPLATE ANY SHOWDOWN WITHIN THE

ORGANIZATION. DESCRIBING THE CONVENTION OUTCOME AS "A FULL CONFIRMATION OF THE MINORITY'S RAISON D'ETRE," SARTORI SAID THERE EITHER WILL BE A "POLITICAL ACCORD" BETWEEN THE TWO CISL FACTIONS FOR THE PURSUIT OF A UNIFIED POLICY, OR THE MINORITY WILL ASSUME THE ROLE OF LOYAL OPPOSITION "IN EXERCISE OF OUR FUNDAMENTAL DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS." IN AN EDITORIAL IN HIS UNION'S PAPER, SARTORI STATES "CISL UNITY IS REALIZABLE," AND "A DIVIDED CISL WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO DEFEND ITS AUTONOMY" FROM POLITICAL INTERVENTION. CISL MINORITY STANDARD BEARER FRANCO MARINI SEEMS EVEN MORE RELAXED ABOUT THE CONVENTION'S OUTCOME. HE WAS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH MAJORITY LEADER PIERRE CARNITI DURING THE CONVENTION, AND THEY HAVE CONTINUED THEIR CONSULTATIONS SINCE. THE GENERAL CISL EXPECTATION IS THAT THESE TWO MEN, AND THE TWO FACTION, WILL EFFECTIVELY IRON OUT A UNIFIED CISL POLICY.

3. THE NEW CISL SECRETARIAT, TO BE ELECTED BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL ON JULY 6, WILL PROBABLY CONSIST OF ELEVEN MEN: A SECRETARY GENERAL (LUIGI MACARIO'S ELECTION IS REGARDED AS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION), A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (ALMOST SURELY PIERRE CARNITI) AND NINE NATIONAL SECRETARIES. THE MAJORITY WILL HAVE SEVEN OF THE ELEVEN SLOTS (IN ADDITION TO MACARIO AND CARNITI, THERE WILL BE CREA, CIANCAGLINI, ROMEI, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MARCONE AND SPANDONARO -- ALL INCUMBENTS) AND THE MINORITY FOUR (THE INCUMBENTS MARINI AND FANTONI PLUS TWO OTHERS). THE TWO MINORITY NATIONAL SECRETARIES WILL LIKELY EMERGE FROM AMONG PIETRO MERLI-BRANDINI, HEAD OF THE AUTONOMOUS RESEARCH INSTITUTE ISRIL; ENZO LEOLINI, SEC GEN OF THE TRANSPORTATION WORKERS WHICH IS, INCIDENTALLY, ONE OF TWO UNIONS WHICH ORGANIZE ITALIANS WORKING FOR US FORCES; GIOVANNI MARIA NIEDDU, SEC GEN OF THE POSTAL WORKERS UNION, AND LUCA BORGOMEIO, EX-PRESS SECRETARY OF CISL. BORGOMEIO IS UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT THE POSITION, PROBABLY PREFERRING TO CONCENTRATE ON HIS NEWLY-WON ROLE AS SEC GEN OF CISL'S ROME ORGANIZATION. SARTORI HAS ALREADY TURNED DOWN AN OFFER PUBLICLY MADE TO HIM BY MACARIO DURING THE CONVENTION.

4. THE VOTE AT THE CONVENTION FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL (VARIOUSLY DUBBED CENTRAL COMMITTEE OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BY THIS EMBASSY IN THE PAS) HAD SOME RATHER

ODD FACETS. 66 MEMBERS WERE TO BE ELECTED; THE REST

OF THE 212 GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS HAD ALREADY BEEN ELECTED BY CONSTITUENT UNIONS AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE PRE-CONVENTION PERIOD. EFFORTS TO PRESENT A COMINED LIST FAILED, SO THAT THERE WAS BOTH A MAJORITY AND A MINORITY LIST. ACCORDING TO THE PREVAILING REGULATION, WHICHEVER FACTION GAINED AT LEAST 51 PERCENT OF THE VOTE COULD AUTOMATICALLY GAIN 44 OF THE 66 SEATS. EACH OF THE 1,012 DELEGATES REPRESENTED A PROPORTION OF CISL'S 2,823,735 MEMBERS.

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5. VOTING RESULTS WERE DELAYED NEARLY FOUR HOURS BEYOND THE ANNOUNCED TIME. THE REASON, WE ARE TOLD, WAS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF STATISTICAL LEGERDEMAIN DESIGEND TO ASSURE THAT MACARIO LED THE MAJORITY LIST. THIS WAS RENDERED NECESSARY, IT IS SAID, BECAUSE CERTAIN MINORITY ELEMENTS WERE TRYING TO EMBARRASS BOTH MACARIO AND CARNITI BY VOTING FOR MAJORITY CANDIDTE ROMEI ON A SPLIT TICKET, LEAVING ROMEI TEMPORARILY THE TOP MAJORITY VOTE-GETTER. WHY ROMEI? BEING AN INNOCUOUS PERSONALITY AND THUS LEAST LIKELY TO LEAD THE LIST, THE INTENTIONS OF THE MINORITY SCHEMERS WOULD BE HIGHLIGHTED.

6. IN ANY EVENT, THESE RESULTS ULTIMATELY EMERGED:

THE TOP SIX MAJORITY VOTE-GETTERS WERE MACARIO 1,678,500;
ROMEI 1,659,500; CARNITI 1,653,000; MARCONE 1,637,500;
CREA 1,635,500; AND MARIO COLOMBO (CISL CHIEF IN MILAN)
1,624,000. TOP SIX IN THE MINORITY WERE MARINI 1,225,500;
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BORGOMEIO 1,204,500; FANTONI 1,117,500; MERLI-BRANDINI
1,165,000; CISL RESEARCH CHIEF DEPAAPHILIS 1,152,500;
AND SARTORI 1,150,500. THESE RESULTS INDICATED THAT
THE MAJORITY CONTROLLED ABOUT 58 PERCENT OF THE CON-
VENTION; FOUR YEARS AGO STORTI CONTROLLED 54.5 PERCENT
OF THE VOTES.

7. EVIDENTLY OVERLOOKED IN THIS PROCESS OF "SANITIZING"
THE VOTING RESULTS WAS THE FACT THAT, ALTHOUGH THE
VOTES OF 13 DELEGATES WERE INVALID, THE AGGREGATE
RESULTS EXCEEDED THE CISL MEMBERSHIP BY ABOUT 80,000.
IN FACT, THERE IS CERTAIN ROMANITC QUALITY TO MOST
ITALIAN STATISTICS.

8. COMMENT: THERE WERE SOME STRIKING CONTRASTS BETWEEN
THE CGIL AND CISL CONVENTIONS. THE FORMER WAS FAR
BETTER ORGANIZED, BOTH WITH RESPECT TO THE OVERALL
ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS, AND THE GENERAL UNIFORMITY
AND TRANQUILITY OF THE PROCEEDINGS. THE CISL CONVENTION
WAS A BIT CHAOTIC. THE SEATS WERE HARDER, DOCUMENTS
WERE NOT ALWAYS AVAILABLE, THE FOREIGN DELEGATES HAD
LITTLE BENEFIT OF INTERPRETATION. STILL, EVEN THOUGH
FEW DELEGATES WERE SWAYED FROM THEIR PRE-CONVENTION
INTENTIONS, IT WAS A MUCH FREER, MORE SPONTANEOUS EVENT.
THE OTHER MAJOR DIFFERENCES WAS IN THE PRINCIPAL SUBJECT
MATTER. THE CGIL CONVENTION DIRECTED THE MAJOR PART
OF ITS ATTENTION TO THE POLITICAL SCENE, TO ADVONG
IN EFFECT COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT. THE
CISL CONCENTRATED PRIMARILY ON CONTAINING ITS CENTRIFUGAL
FORCES. IN THIS THEY WERE EVIDENTLY VERY SUCCESSFUL.
THOUGH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, IN CONTRAST
TO PREVIOUS YEARS, ENJOYED CONSIDERABLE FAVOR IN THE
SENTIMENTS OF THE DELEGATES (AS EXPRESSED IN AN OVATION
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FOR DC PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI, FOR EXAMPLE), AND MIGHT
HAVE PREFERRED THE MARINI FORCES TO PREVAIL, THE CISL
CONVENTION CONCLUDED WITH THE ORGANIZATION INTACT AND
ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE DC CONSIDERABLY LESS CONTENTIOUS
THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE 1969.

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